

to utilise that water for irrigation purposes. The second aspect involved is in regard to the supply of water for villages situated on the banks of the river Tungabhadra. I may inform the House that Government will take immediate action to see that water is made available to the villages either by putting borewells, if that is not possible, we will make necessary arrangements to supply water by transport to the villages.

(ii) Re.: Boat tragedy in Angur Village, Hadagalli Taluk.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK (BELGAUM).—I call the attention of the Chief Minister to the loss of lives in the boat tragedy at Angur village in Hadagalli Taluk.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works).—

Sir, on behalf of the Chief Minister I state as follows :

The Boat tragedy in Tungabhadra river at Angur village took place on 14-3-1973 at about 5.00 P.M. Angur is a small village situated on the right bank of Tungabhadra river in Bellary District with a population of 900 as per 1971 census. It appears that round about Angur village, plenty of fish is found in Tungabhadra river which attracts a large number of fishermen.

The place of occurrence is Tungabhadra river flowing across the Dharwar—Bellary boundary, i.e., Hadagalli and Shirahatti taluks. At this spot, the Tungabhadra river has forked into two streams forming an Island where the Temple of Gaddi Basaveswara is situated. On this Island, which is in the jurisdiction of Dharwar District, Basaveswara Jathra was being celebrated from a long time during the month of March. Pilgrims from the neighbouring villages on both the sides of the Tungabhadra river used to gather at this place during the Jathra. During this year, festival was observed on 13-3-1973 and 14-3-1973. As usual Police Constables were deputed to Angur village and to the Island for Bandobust duties. The width of the Tungabhadra river between Angur village bank side and Gaddi Basaveswara Island bank side is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ furlongs. The depth of water was about 30' to 40' during summer. About two miles west of Angur village, there is a ferry service by boat. The ferry is maintained by the Taluk Development Board of Hoovinahadagalli. One Basavannappa of Kotehal held licence for plying boats. It appears, on 14-3-1973 at 5-00 P.M., a ferry boat, the capacity of which is 8 to 10, carrying 50-60 persons was coming from the Temple side towards the Angur village. On account of overloading, the boat tilted on one side and some water got into the boat. The passengers got panicky and some of them jumped into the river capsizing the boat and throwing all the occupants including children over-board. The persons on the Gaddi Basaveswara bank side and those in the boat raised alarm. The fishermen and others of Angur village who saw the accident, immediately rushed to the rescue of the victims and rescued 36 persons including women and

children. In addition to this, 5 persons from the boat swam to the banks by 10-00 P. M. in the night on 15-3-1973. However, 17 persons lost their lives in this tragedy

The Police Constables who were on landobust duty at Angur village along with fishermen and others arranged for the rescue of the drowned people. Information of this accident reached the Police Station at about 2.00 A.M. on 15-3-1973. The Circle Inspector immediately on receipt of the information at about 12-00 Noon on 15-3-1973, proceeded to the spot. The Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, secured the services of ambulance and fire service at Hospet with sufficient personnel and reached this spot at 10-30 P. M. on the same day. By that time 16 dead bodies were traced. On 16-3-1973, another dead body was traced. All the 17 dead bodies were identified and post-mortem done.

On 16-3-1973, the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary, visited this spot, enquired into the accident and Rs. 1,610/- were distributed to the legal heirs of the deceased persons and the brave persons who rescued the persons from the sinking boats.

On 17-3-1973 at 3-00 P.M. the accused Basavannappa of Kotehal was arrested at Angur village. He had engaged one kotehal Eranna to assist him in rowing the boat. A case against the ferryman Basavannappa and Kotehal Eranna has been registered in Crime No. 3/73 of Hadagalli Police Station and is under investigation. The other accused Kotehal Eranna is absconding from the time of the incident. Investigation of the case is proceeding.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Madam Speaker, 17 persons have died on account of the boat tragedy and the amount distributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the victims is only Rs. 1,610 including the brave persons. Whether the amount distributed is not a meagre amount? Will the Government at least pay Rs. 1,000 to each person; whether the Government will consider this sympathetically?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—That is a suggestion for action and the Government will examine it.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ :—ಜಾತ್ರೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಜಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಬಂದೋಬಸ್ತಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಾನ್ಸ್ಟೇಬಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿತ್ತೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಈ ದುರಂತ ನಡೆದಿರುವುದು ತಾರೀಖು 14-3-1973ನೇ ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ. ಪೊಲೀಸಿಗೆ ಸದ್ಬುದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಟ್ರಿಯಾದ ತಾರೀಖು 15-3-1973ನೇ ರಾತ್ರಿ 2 ಗಂಟೆಗೊಂದೂ, ಅನಂತರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟೆಕ್ಟರು ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದದ್ದು ತಾರೀಖು 15-3-1973ನೇ 12 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಲೀಸಿನವರ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಎದ್ದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದುದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಇವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏನು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಎಂ. ಚನ್ನಬಸಪ್ಪ :—ಏಲ್ಲಾ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.